to the Mujahideens in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, what 13 Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRi **K.** NATWAR SINGH); (a) Government^ attention has been drawn to media reports *to* thig **effect.**

(b) Government is opposed to all forms of interference and intervention in Afghanistan. We favour a negotiated political settlement of the issue which takes into account the legitimate interests of all concerned. We support the UN Secretary General's initiative in this regard.

Clearance of sub-standard goods for export

688. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: SHRIJ. P. GOYAL: SHRI HAEiVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received so far during the last three years, year-wise against the officers of the Export Inspection Council and the Export Inspection Agency for clearing sub-standard goods for export;

(b) what is the nature of complaints and the particulars of officers against whom complaints were received;

(c) what action has so far been taken on these complaints;

(d) what are the details of the firms whose goods were found to be sub-standard; and

(e) whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the whole affair?

THE MINISTER OF STATS IN j THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCS (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (e) No complaints have been received from foreign buyera directly against officers of EIC or EIA& as such. Whenever complaints are received from importers against exporters relating to quality, these **ara** enquired into. Appropriate action is taken against officers/employees and against exporters for lapses, if amy. During the last three years, action was initiated against 2G officers | employees and 27 exporters/manufacturers.

Revolving venture fond

689. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN-DRiA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government for the establishment of a revolving venture fund to assist and promote export-oriented industries; and

(b) if so, what decision hag been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade deficit with EEC

690. SHRi PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit with the European Economic Community is 40 per cent of India's total trade deficit;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to increase India's exports to the EEC countries and reduce the trade deficit; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the detai'Ig thereof?